

BALTIMORE METROCENTER SURVEY

SURVEY NO.: B-2196

AREA: Cathedral Hill

MAGI NO.: 0421965311

Address: 336 St. Paul Place

Current Name: Rody & Rody law offices

Block: 581

Lot: 15

Lot size: 24 ft. x 88 ft.

Height: 3

Materials: Brick and wood

Condition: Good

Owner: Robert S. Rody et al

Use: Commercial

Accessible: yes, restricted

Designation:

Liber/Folio: RHB 3563/503



Historic Name: Walter de Curzon Poultney House

Date: ca. 1815

Architect/Builder:

Style (if appropriate):

**Description:** The facade has been altered in the mid 20th century for office use in the building. The main change was the lowering of the doorway to street level. The opening has a brick frame and a recessed modern glass door. Above the doorway is a hexagonal window with a brick frame. The marble facing of the basement was replaced by common bond brick. The window bays remain as built with tall narrow 6/9 sash on the first floor and 6/6 on the other floors. Fine cast iron grilles are attached to the first floor windows. Dentil moldings decorate the lintels. The attic story has three small rectangular windows with single vertical muntins just below the dentil cornice. The Mulberry Street elevation is painted brick with an irregular fenestration pattern.

**Significance:**

Area: architecture; local history

Level: local

The Walter Poultney House retains more of its 19th century ornamentation than any of the four rowhouses in the 300 block of St. Paul Place, in spite of the altered doorway. The Poultney family owned the house from the late 1850's to 1946. The most well-known of the Poultnseys to live there was Walter de Curzon Poultney (died 1929). A life-long bachelor, he was prominent in society affairs and was famous for his elaborate clothes, handle-bar mustache and goatee, and elegant antiques. He traveled widely and the St. Paul Street house was filled with art objects, silver, china, and glass from these excursions. One of the last of the wealthy residents of the Cathedral Hill area, he maintained his aristocratic lifestyle in the face of the growing commercialization of his neighborhood. At his death, the contents of his house were sold at a public auction which attracted buyers from several states. The house became a lunchroom and restaurant and later was the Salvation Army local headquarters.

**Sources:** Vogue, 4-9-1896; Baltimore, A picture History; CHAP file  
**Surveyor and Date:** Janet Davis, April 1985

a great risk. But, seriously, I could not come."

"Because you had a Scriptural excuse?" said Mrs. Brookes, smiling maliciously.

The fact was, little Julie Smith, standing before the mirror and covered with jewels, was rather a conspicuous figure. The younger woman colored, but she did not flinch, meeting his eyes bravely, she gave him a smile that half included Julie.

"This young lady is——" he began, cursing his carelessness in bringing her there, and then he stammered like a schoolboy caught in mischief. He had not thought to ask her name.

The elder woman turned on her heel and walked to another part of the shop. Vaughn followed her at once. "That is a little country cousin of mine," he explained. "She's in town for the day, and I am showing her the glories of the world. You know, I come from New England."

"That's right, Horace," said Mrs. Brookes, heartily. She was a good-natured woman and daring, after a fashion, to be so. "At first I had an idea. Never mind—but it is a surprise you're not ashamed of your relatives. I'm in such terror of mine. They keep me slinking about in carriages. I daren't go into the big shops I so adore for fear I'll meet them. They're messengers of Satan sent to buffet me, and they're always turning up. Sometimes I think I'll defy the whole world and acknowledge them and get my liberty, and then I simply can't—my position isn't sufficiently established."

Everybody laughed. Mrs. Brookes stepped to a mirror to adjust her veil, and Edith Maynard said to Vaughn, in a low voice:

"Your little cousin is so young, I dare say we embarrass her. She looks very sweet and good."

"And so does somebody else," said Vaughn, sincerely and so simply that Edith, who was used to nothing from him but a touching gallantry, felt her cheek flush. She suffered her eyes to meet his a single instant, and for the life of her she could not keep the secret an instant longer. It was mirrored in those clear depths. She felt (she could not lift them again) Vaughn in turn redden from throat to brow, and, as in a dream, she heard him say:

"Good-by!"

"You are going away?" She forced the words from her white lips.

"Yes, I am going away, and, Edith, this is good-by."

She felt his hand close on hers. It was the first time he had ever called her by that name, and something told her it was the last. She looked, and he had gone.

"It's my turn now, really," he said when he and Julie Smith were in the street. "We are going to the Metropolitan Museum, for it is a free day, and I will show you what you like, and what I like, and what we both ought to like, and none of them will be the same picture. No; we won't take the Fifth Avenue stage. I am sick of Fifth Avenue. We'll go over to Broadway, where we belong, and see human beings and breathe the atmosphere they breathe."

"Not where we belong; where I belong," corrected Julie Smith.

"But, oh, I am so thankful to get out of that dreadful place!"

"What—there? Why, that is the paradise of women. They go there when they die, if they're good enough. I thought you were delighted in there."

blance to the features of that they had left in the other street than one of Nast's caricatures is like a Greek statue.

Vaughn looked at them with a strange interest. Certainly, this had been an unusual day. If all days had been like this—but it



MR. WALTER DE CURZON POULTNEY

"No, you did not," said the little girl—not a little girl any longer, and even Vaughn noticed how the soft features had seemed to define themselves in the last hour.

"No, you did not think it a paradise for me. I don't know you very well, but I know you feel things—oh, almost before they happen—and that you were very uncomfortable for me. There are two worlds, aren't they?" she went on. "The one I saw there and this one, where I belong."

She looked down the long street; it was crowded with people, pressing one another in an unwieldy yet good-natured mass. The features of this crowd bore no more resemblance

to the features of that they had left in the other street than one of Nast's caricatures is like a Greek statue.

was too late to think of that now. He would enjoy to-day. Meanwhile the ladies in the jeweler's were elaborately talking of something else, till suddenly Mrs. Brookes laid her hand on Edith Maynard's shoulder.

"Forgive me, Edith, but it was so unlike Horace, it upset me. He's such good form, you know. Why, you're looking hurt, angry—why, Edith, don't you know it is hopeless, that he is impossible, that he is bad, bad—"

"Hush, hush," cried Edith Maynard. "I know it and I can't bear it. Oh, Horace!"

The elder woman looked away. She was



B-2196

Walter deCurzon Poultney House  
336 St. Paul Place

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

See Bygone Baltimore by Jacques Kelly (1982), pp. 68-69 for interior view of Poultney House in 1915. Original photo at Maryland Historical Society.

Baltimore Metrocenter Survey  
Cathedral Hill Area  
Walter deCurzon Poultney House  
336 St. Paul Place  
B-2196





Walter deCurzon Poultney House B-2196  
336 St. Paul Place  
Cathedral Hill - Metrocenter Survey  
Baltimore (City), Maryland  
Photo: Janet Davis  
Date: August 1984  
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
East elevation

B-2196

MAGI #0421965904

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: 336 St. Paul Place				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: 336 St Paul Place				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY:		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <u>Law Offices</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <u>and Apts.</u>				
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: Esquire Building Inc.				
STREET AND NUMBER: 336 St. Paul Place				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore		STATE: Maryland		21202
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Land Records Office Room 601 Baltimore City Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER: St. Paul and Fayette Streets				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore		STATE: Maryland		21201
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): JFC 2156-421				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: November 1975 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation				
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 900 26 South Calvert Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore		STATE: Maryland		21202

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This semi-attached common bond brick building is located at the corner of Mulberry and St. Paul Streets. It is 3 stories with three bays and has a low pitched gable roof. The building extends in the back with a flat roof. The entrance is located on the left side and is a steel framed rectangular glass door. Above the door is a octagonal shaped window with three over three panes. The other two windows of the first story are rectangular shaped with three over four panes. The sills are wooden and the flat wooden lintels have a projecting cornice design with modillions. There are iron railings on the first floor windows. The second and third floor windows are the same as the first floor but each story window is progressively shorter. Also there are no railings on the second and third floor windows. The half story has eyebrow windows. The cornice is of wood with a modillion design. The building has had smaller additions added to the back of it. The building is of the same height as adjoining buildings but is wider.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## B. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☐ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☒ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |   |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric            | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic               | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |   |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

336 St. Paul Place was the home of Walter deCurzon Poultney for ~~sixty-five years~~. Poultney was one of the leaders of Baltimore society for years and the great grandson of Ellin North, who is considered the first white child born in Baltimore. He traveled extensively and had crossed the Atlantic Ocean about thirty-eight times, he bought many rare and beautiful art treasures, furniture, and paintings on his trips abroad. His home was filled with treasures; the neighborhood of 336 St. Paul Place used to be one of the elite neighborhoods but as Baltimore grew larger and business advanced into the area, most of the residents moved out of their homes and consequently the homes were destroyed. But, Poultney declined to move out of the district because of deep attachment to his family home; he became the last old resident to live in the neighborhood. Because of these factors his home became a landmark. The contents of the home and the owner are no longer present which gave the home its fame but the building is still significant even in its altered state because it is the only remaining building on the block that was originally built as a residence for the wealthy.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification: 23-6x89

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Nancy Krieger, Margaret Mack, Lee Wallace

ORGANIZATION

Goucher College

DATE

11/15/75

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Towson

STATE

Maryland

## 12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

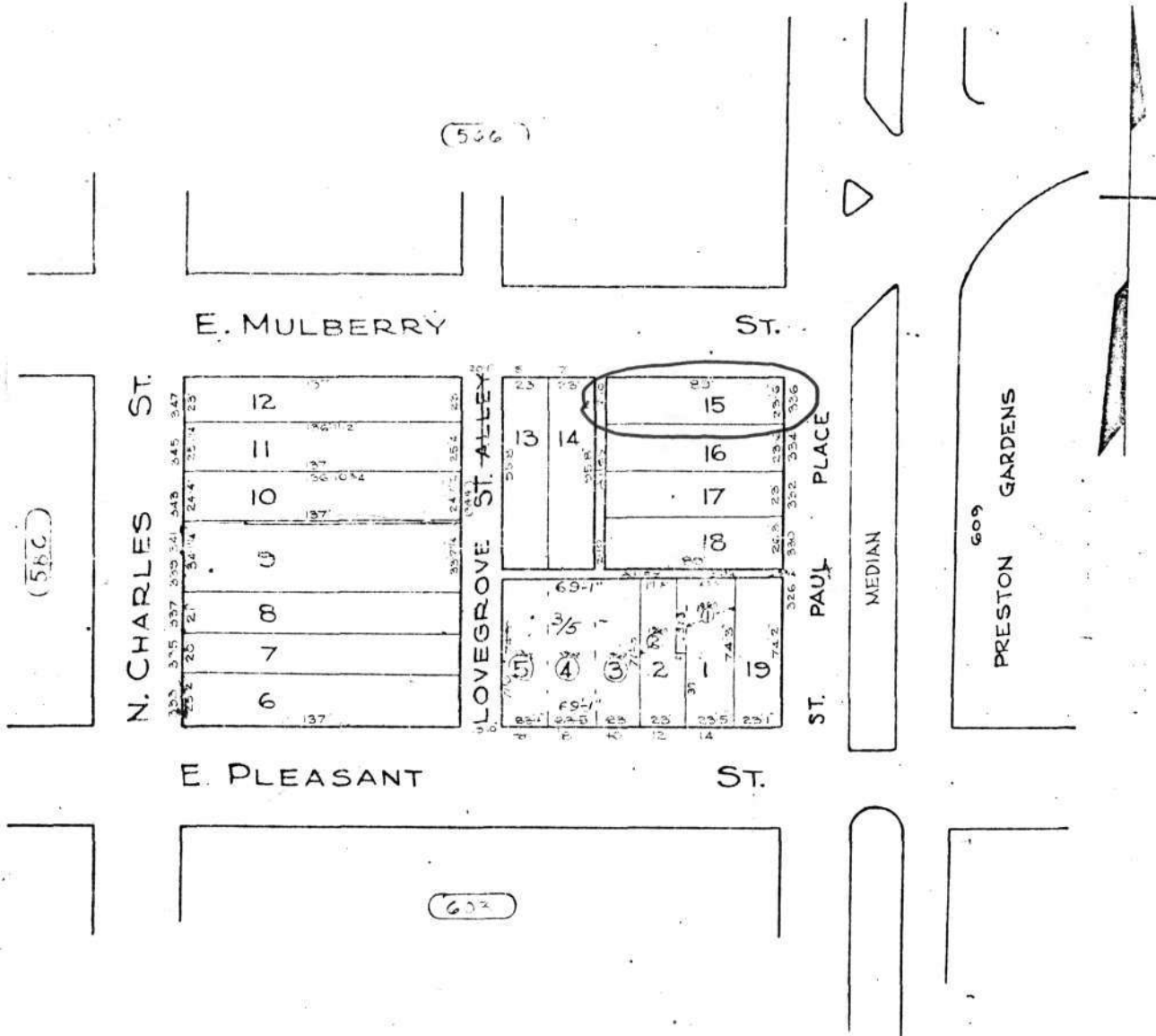
National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Margaret M. Mack  
Signature

# REVISIONS

Lot 1-2 Death Tax Order App. C No. 4201  
 Lot 1-3 Aft. Comp. App. No. 1051155

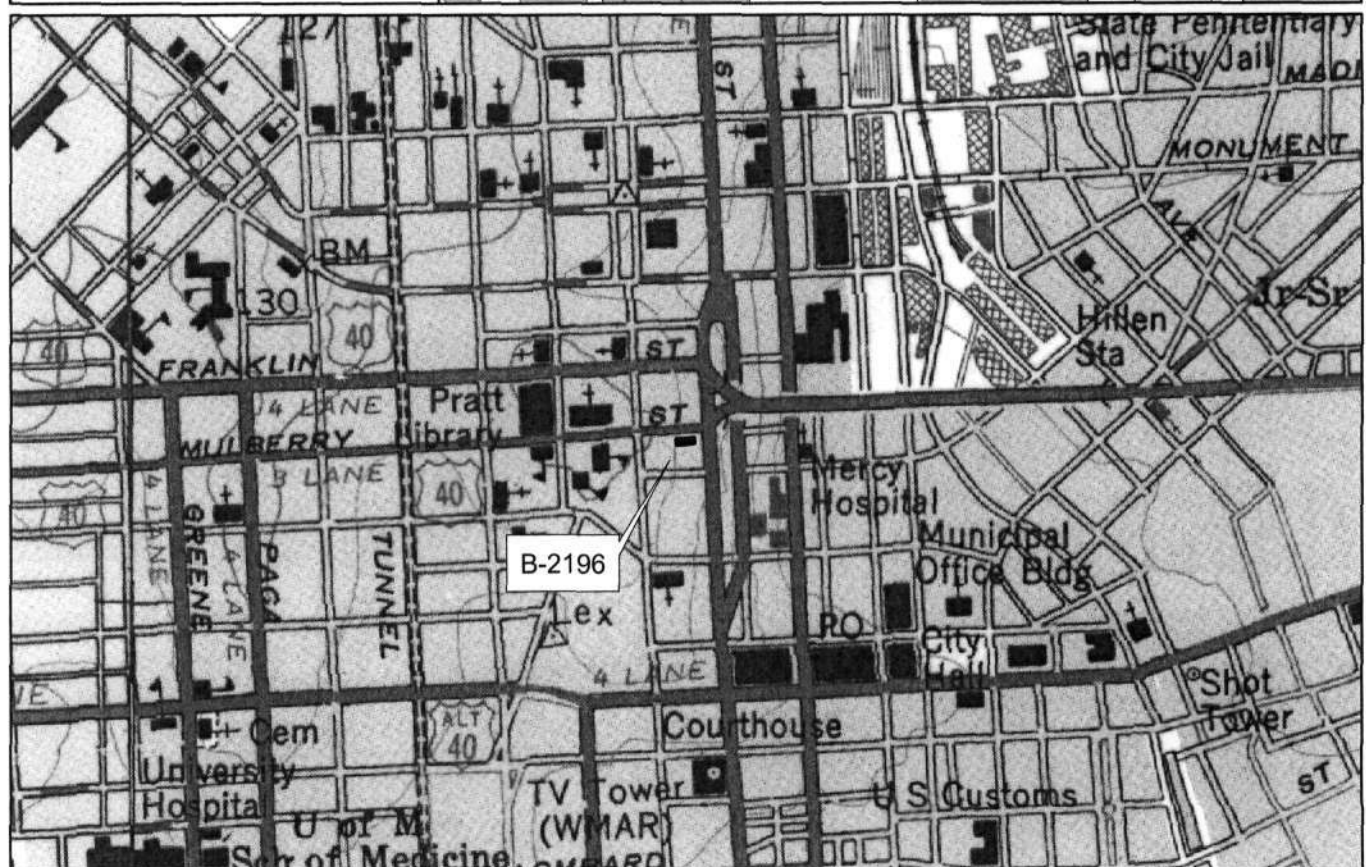
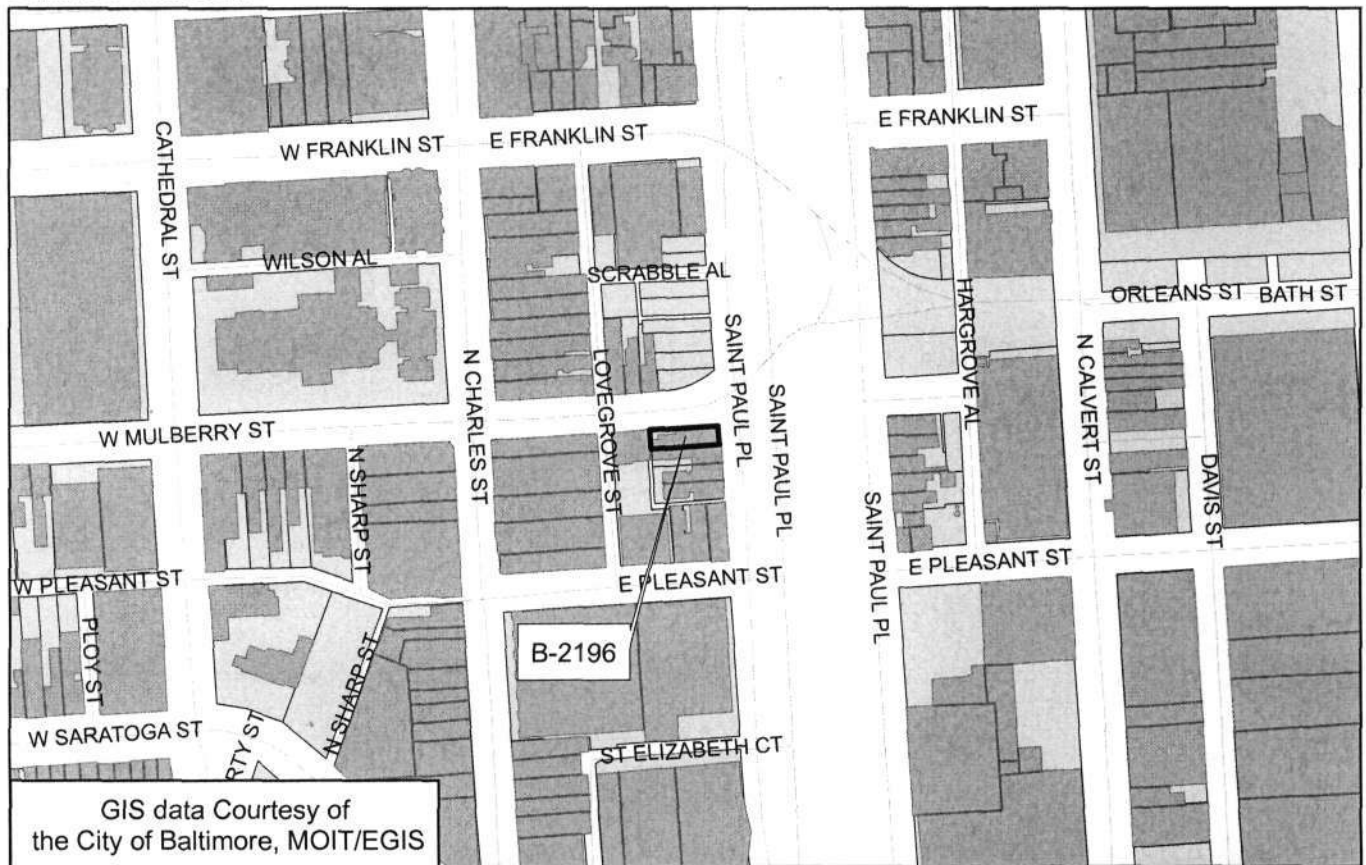
B-2196



**NOTICE**  
 THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED  
 FOR IN THE ACTS OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE  
 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT ALL  
 THE LOTS IN THIS PLAT BE  
 OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
 BUREAU OF PLANS & SURVEYS  
 PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION  
 WARD 4 SECTION 1  
 BLOCK 581

B-2196  
Walter deCurzon Poultney House (Rody & Rody Law Offices)  
336 St. Paul Place  
Block 0581 Lot 013  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad







B-2196

Bk 581  
336 St. Paul D.